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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Village of Avilla Receives Grant for Early Storm Warning Siren



Vickie Umfleet, Rural Development Specialist in Area 5, USDA Rural Development presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$9,562 to the Village of Avilla during a celebration on June 15, 2004, held at the Avilla First Baptist Church. Grant funds were targeted to purchase an early storm warning siren benefiting 99 residents and businesses in the Avilla area.

Umfleet said, "Those of us who lived in this area in May 2003, remember the devastating tornados that stormed through the Southwest corner of Missouri. An early storm warning siren is one of the first precautionary measures a community can utilize for the protection of their citizens. It is heart warming to know federal tax dollars are being returned to the area to provide such an important safeguard to those in and around Tornado Alley".

President of the Board, Rosemary Lombard expressed her appreciation, "I'm very excited storm siren because it will give additional warning to our residents, school children, the three churches and businesses located in the Avilla area. We are very appreciative of Rural Development's assistance"



Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "U.S. Senators Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Roy Blunt have been, and continue to be, strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians by making available federal funds for these kinds of rural projects." "The agency's mission mirrors President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Vickie Umfleet, Rural Development Specialist, at 688 S State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield MO, 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to [vickie.umfleet@mo.usda.gov](mailto:vickie.umfleet@mo.usda.gov).

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